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FOR

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PROGRAM First Line Report

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE October 16, 1980 7:23 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT News Leaks

IKE PAPPAS: Are there Reagan moles at the Defense Department and elsewhere in the government?

We'll do some digging in a moment.

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They began this summer just after the conventions when the presidential election campaign began in earnest, news leaks one after the other. Most of them stories that in one way or another portrayed President Carter and his defense policies primarily in a bad light.

The big one, of course, was the Stealth airplane leak. The one about America's new radar resistance so-called invisible airplane.

Then there was the one about the secret Army report that said six of the ten divisions based in the United States are not combat ready.

The list is long and painful for the Carter administration.

Government officials were dismayed by the news leaks. Congressional investigations were launched into sources. The FBI started its own probe and so did the Pentagon.

Now a new wrinkle in the election year saga of news leaks. An apparent campaign of disseminating disinformation or phony information in an effort to embarrass President Carter.

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